

# FAST (Fix A Shaft Today!) Campaign

## A Partnership Initiative for Eradicating Unsafe Abandoned Mine Land Features



Approximately 29 people die each year\* due to accidents involving mine land features, many of them on abandoned mine lands (AML). A significant amount of these fatalities occur on private and public lands in the Southwest. At one time, these abandoned mine lands were considered remote but due to urban sprawl and the increased ability of the public to access these sites accidents continue to occur. Many of these features are known to the public though not reported to officials. Other times an abandoned mine feature is discovered by accident.



As the largest land manager in the west, the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has a responsibility to ensure safety on these lands, but the BLM cannot do it alone. To expedite the elimination of these legacy mine hazards, the BLM is proposing a partnership initiative with mine claimants, landowners, the mining industry, recreational user groups, and non-government organizations to eradicate unsafe abandoned mine land features.

### PROPOSAL

---

The BLM is proposing a *FAST (Fix A Shaft Today!) Campaign* to partner with interested parties and user groups to eradicate abandoned mine land features on lands managed by the BLM..

### GOALS

---

- Develop partnerships which result in the donation of time, labor and use of mining equipment to aid in closing dangerous mine shaft and structures.
- Encourage knowledge-sharing and technology transfer among government and stakeholder groups.
- Solicit technical volunteers from wildlife agencies, academia, bat enthusiasts, and amateur archeologists to assist with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) clearances.



### KEY PHASES

---

- Create a simple approach for public land users to report safety hazards.
- Identify hazards posing risks to recreational users.
- Make public and surrounding lands safe for responsible recreational users by eradicating abandoned mine shafts and other features.



## COMMITMENT

Partnering stakeholders will be responsible for participating in meetings and providing initial comment to the proposed initiative to establish common goals. They may be asked to access and utilize resources from their respective entities to develop efficient and cost-effective outreach methodologies.

A governing body will be formed. The success of the *FAST Campaign* depends on the participation of all stakeholders involved in abandoned mine feature eradication.

### *Proposed FAST Campaign Stakeholder Roles, Commitments, and Benefits*

Partner	Role	Commitment	Benefit
U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiator and leader of FAST campaign at national level</li> <li>Owner and provider of spatial data.</li> </ul>	<u>Lead:</u> FAST campaign at national level <u>Fund:</u> an inventory of features on BLM lands <u>Identify:</u> unsafe mine features on public lands <u>Publicize:</u> stakeholder efforts <u>Comply:</u> with regulations for rapid mine feature closures <u>Provide:</u> a reporting mechanism for the public <u>Coordinate:</u> with stakeholders and other affected parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce potential liabilities and litigation for taxpayers</li> <li>Meet strategic goal</li> <li>Improve safety on public lands</li> <li>Ease overall cost of cleanup for taxpayers</li> <li>Encourages community synergism</li> </ul>
State government AML agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lead FAST campaign at state/regional level</li> <li>Owner and provider of spatial data.</li> </ul>	<u>Lead:</u> the partnership and initiative implementation at the State/regional level <u>Publicize:</u> stakeholders efforts <u>Coordinate:</u> with stakeholders and other affected parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce potential liabilities</li> <li>Improve public safety</li> <li>Ease overall cost of cleanup for taxpayers</li> </ul>
OHV organizations, OHV industry, and other recreational organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Education and outreach support</li> <li>Motivate members to participate</li> </ul>	<u>Energize:</u> community support for this campaign <u>Educate:</u> OHV users and general public of campaign <u>Publicize:</u> stakeholder efforts <u>Report:</u> hazards to appropriate authority upon discovery <u>Mark:</u> features with GPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community collaboration</li> <li>Improved sense of safety for OHV users</li> </ul>
Mining industry & community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Education and outreach support</li> <li>Motivate members to participate</li> </ul>	<u>Support:</u> campaign effort by providing expertise and in-kind services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ease of liability</li> <li>Safer lands</li> <li>Improved image</li> </ul>
Technical experts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Education and outreach support</li> <li>Motivate members to participate</li> <li>Provide technical expertise</li> </ul>	<u>Assist:</u> with archeological and wildlife clearances for regulatory compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cooperative interaction with other agencies</li> </ul>

## KEY MILESTONES AND TIMFRAMES

Below is a proposed timeframe the activities necessary to establish the *FAST Campaign*.

Activity	Estimated Timeframe
<i>BLM Management Approval</i>	March 2008
<i>Contact Potential Stakeholders.</i> Provide proposal document and test level of interest with stakeholders; obtain management approvals from stakeholders.	April 2008
<i>Stakeholder Focus Group Session:</i> Conduct focus group sessions with stakeholders to determine common goals, roles and responsibilities, and resolve potential issues and concerns	April - May 2008
<i>Develop Plan/Schedule.</i> Establish schedule and work plan and have an agreement to the approach.	May 2008
<i>Establish a Pilot Test Approach.</i> Stakeholders determine an appropriate pilot area for initiative activities	May 2008 – July 2008
<i>Summarize Pilot Results and Revise Initiative Process</i>	July 2008 – Early August 2008
<i>FAST Campaign Instituted.</i> All partners brought into the process and have management approval to participate.	September 30, 2008



\*Mine Safety and Health Administration – Stay Out! Stay Alive! Accident Summaries.  
<http://www.msha.gov/SOSA/SOSAhome.asp> (visited February 29, 2008).